

Chemical dispensers

Plumbing Advisory Note – February 2021

The Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) has determined the cross-connection hazard rating for chemical dispensers as ‘medium and high hazard’.

This will be dependent on the toxicity of the chemicals. Refer to the chemical’s Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for toxicity.

Chemical dispensers, depending on the manufacturer, may have an integral backflow such as a registered air gap. This would negate the need for additional individual backflow protection upstream of the chemical dispenser. Air gaps (including air gaps integral to dispenser units) will need to be registered with the OTR with a nameplate attached. All backflow prevention devices must be tested annually to AS/NZ 2845.3:2020.

If there is no compliant backflow prevention device integral to the chemical dispenser, ‘individual’ backflow protection must be installed upstream of the chemical dispenser before connecting the dispenser to the property’s drinking water supply.



Figure 1 — A chemical dispenser with integral air gap

Legislative requirements

The *National Construction Code (NCC) Volume Three, Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA)*— part B sets out the requirements related to water services.

Part B5.1 sets out the requirements relating to cross-connection hazards and corresponding hazard ratings.

Testing and commissioning backflow prevention devices

All new plumbing installations of backflow prevention devices must be tested and commissioned by a licensed plumber. Results must be recorded on the OTR's official *Backflow Prevention Device Commission, inspection and maintenance report*.

All testable backflow prevention devices must also be tested annually by a licensed plumber and the results recorded with the OTR.

Reports must be completed and forwarded to the OTR within seven days of testing.

Completed reports can be emailed to otr.plumbbackflow@sa.gov.au or posted to:

Office of the Technical Regulator – Plumbing
GPO Box 370
Adelaide SA 5001

Frequently asked questions

A client has supplied a chemical dispenser to install in a cleaner's room, but I cannot find the WaterMark on the product – Can I install this dispenser with a RPZ?

No, all chemical dispensers must be WaterMarked as per the Watermark Certification Scheme.

What is WaterMark certification?

The WaterMark Certification Scheme is mandatory for certain plumbing and drainage products to ensure that they are fit for purpose for use in a plumbing and drainage Installation.

Chemical dispensers are required to be Watermarked. Non-portable Chemical Dispensers must be certified to WaterMark technical specification 101 Appliances (WMTS -101).

I am installing a WaterMarked chemical dispenser at a hospital but there is already an RPZ feeding another appliance – do I need to install another backflow?

Yes, chemical dispensers must be 'individually' protected, not zone protected.

Are there other types of integral backflow devices, incorporated in some chemical dispensers?

Yes, the chemical dispenser may have other types of compliant backflow devices. Consult with the manufacturer and check with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB).

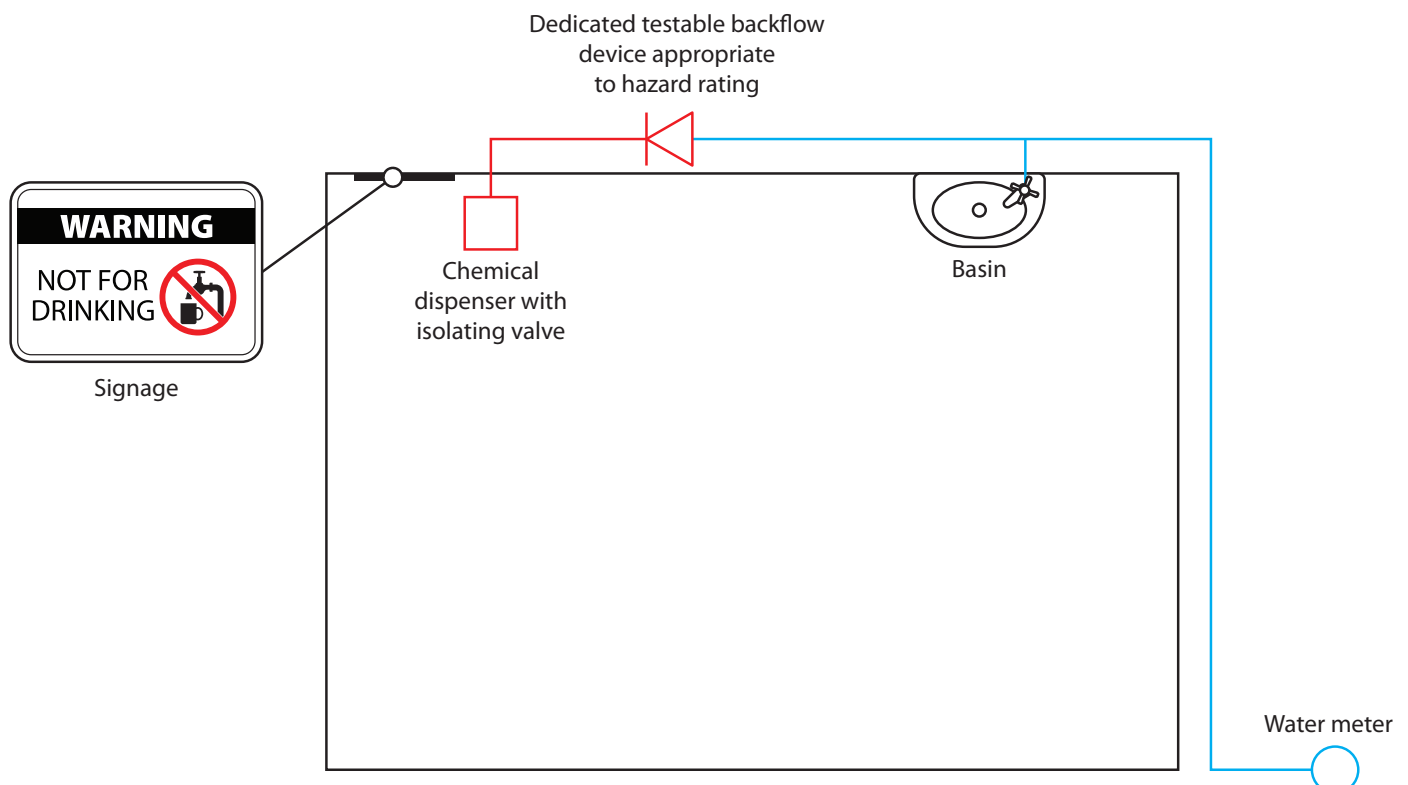


Figure 2 — Typical installation

Installing a chemical dispenser

Chemical dispenser must be installed by an appropriately licenced plumber. The following process should be used to determine the correct type of protection.

